

REVISED

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28798 / H0336

This bill would update laws pertaining to qualified group homes for children in foster care. Specifically, it would: (1) set a shortened timeline for the department and courts to communicate and act on the child's behalf; (2) prioritize the best interest of the child when determining such placement; (3) require the department more closely monitor the child when in a group home; and (4) require ongoing evaluation of potential alternative placements such as family reunification, placement with a relative or foster family, or adoption. Additionally, it would allow for extended care for youth aging out of the foster care system not to exceed age 21, under limited circumstances.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill will result in an additional cost to the general fund of approximately \$240,000 in FY22 and approximately \$400,000 in FY23. The general fund is already used to pay some of the costs associated with foster care, including placement in qualified group homes. In 2020, this cost to the general fund was \$1,883,219, and was used to leverage an additional ~~\$4,235,711~~ \$2,352,492 in federal funds. Without this bill, the majority of the accompanying federal funds could no longer be accessed, and the state general fund would be compelled to cover the entire cost.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).